

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00926 131004Z
ACTION EUR-12

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P R 130920Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2440
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, CZ
SUBJECT: MAY 2 VISIT OF YPO GROUP

1. ON FEB 7, AMBASSADOR AND E/C COUNSELOR MET WITH DANIEL G. CRONIN OF YOUNG PRESIDENTS' ORGANIZATION INC. (YPO) AND K.A. LIFSON, A DALLAS MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT, CONCERNING PLANNED PRAGUE VISIT OF YPO MEMBERS AND WIVES. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEX MESSAGES CONCERNING MAY 2 VISIT TO EMBASSY WHICH RAISE VARIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT GROUPS' DESIRES, EXPECTATIONS AND PLANS.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL CALLING CRONIN IN YPO'S NEW YORK OFFICE (TEL: 212-867-1900) SOONEST TO CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING:

(A) AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF REMAIN EAGER TO COOPERATE IN ALL APPROPRIATE WAYS TO MAKE YPO VISIT A SUCCESS. HOWEVER, WE NEED FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO FACILITATE PLANNING.

(B) TWO APRIL 6 TELEXES FROM CRONIN INDICATE THAT YPO GROUP WISHES TO VISIT EMBASSY CHANCERY BETWEEN 1645 AND 1845 ON MONDAY, MAY 2. DURING THAT TWO-HOUR PERIOD, GROUP EVIDENTLY WANTS TO TOUR CHANCERY GROUNDS, HAVE SHORT EMBASSY BRIEFING AND HAVE COCKTAILS (AT
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YPO EXPENSE). WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THESE PLANS. HOWEVER, ONE TELEX REQUESTS NAMES OF "LOCAL PEOPLE" AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS WE PROPOSE TO INVITE. DOES CRONIN WANT CZECHOSLOVAKS TO ATTEND BRIEFING AS WELL AS COCKTAILS? IF SO, THIS COULD PUT THEM AND US IN AN AWKWARD SITUATION. IF NOT, WE WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO SQUEEZE SEPARATE TOUR, BRIEFING AND COCK-

TAIL EVENTS INTO TWO HOURS. GIVEN TIME CONSTRAINT, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT BRIEFING AND COCKTAILS BE RESTRICTED TO AMERICANS ONLY. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER CRONIN, WANTS LOCALS INVITED ON MAY 2 AND, IF SO, WHETHER HE WANTS THEM TO ATTEND BRIEFING.

(C) IF CRONIN DOES WANT TO INCLUDE LOCALS, WE WILL TRY TO INVITE A SMALL, REPRESENTATIVE GROUP FROM CZECHOSLOVAK "BUSINESS" AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES. AS WE MENTIONED ON FEB. 7, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE ATTENDANCE BY LOCALS.

(D) EMBASSY STILL REQUIRES (AS INDICATED OUR MARCH 9 TELEX TO CRONIN) NAMES OF YPO MEMBERS, OFFICIALS AND SPOUSES WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN MAY 2 VISIT PLUS APPROPRIATE TITLES AND COMPANY AFFILIATIONS. AT A MINIMUM, WE NEED ASAP A FIRM ESTIMATE OF NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CALL CRONIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND OBTAIN HIS REACTION TO POINTS AND QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 2. PRIORITY RESPONSE REQUESTED.
BYRNE

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